

**In the Claims:**

We claim:

1-23. (canceled)

24. (previously presented) A method for characterizing prostate cancer in a subject, comprising:

a) providing a sample from a subject, wherein said subject has been diagnosed with prostate cancer; and

b) characterizing said sample by detecting the presence or absence of HIP1 in said sample with a nucleic acid probe configured to hybridize to a HIP1 nucleic acid sequence consisting of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein said presence or absence of HIP1 in said sample is indicative of one or more of properties of said cancer selected from the group consisting of risk of prostate specific antigen failure, risk of said cancer metastasizing, risk of said cancer recurring, and stage of said cancer.

25. (previously presented) The method of Claim 24, wherein said sample is tumor tissue.

26. (previously presented) The method of Claim 24, wherein said sample is biopsy tissue.

27. (original) The method of Claim 24, wherein said detecting HIP1 comprises detecting the presence of HIP1 mRNA.

28. (canceled)

29. (previously presented) The method of Claim 24, wherein said detecting the presence of HIP1 mRNA comprises a detection assay selected from the group

consisting of a Northern blot, in situ hybridization, reverse-transcriptase polymerase chain reaction, and microarray analysis.

30-35. (canceled)

36. (previously presented) The method of Claim 24, wherein said stage of said cancer is selected from the group consisting of high-grade prostatic intraepithelial neoplasia, benign prostatic hyperplasia, prostate carcinoma, and metastatic prostate carcinoma.

37-83. (canceled)

84. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 9, wherein said reagent is configured to detect an ENTH deletion mutant of said HIP1.

85. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 9, wherein said reagent is configured to detect SEQ ID NO:4.

86. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 9, wherein said reagent is configured to detect an ENTH domain of said HIP1.

87-90. (canceled)

91. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 24, wherein said reagent is configured to detect an ENTH deletion mutant of said HIP1.

92. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 24, wherein said reagent is configured to detect SEQ ID NO:4.

93. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 24, wherein said reagent is configured to detect an ENTH domain of said HIP1.

94. (canceled)

95. (previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein said probe is a primer.